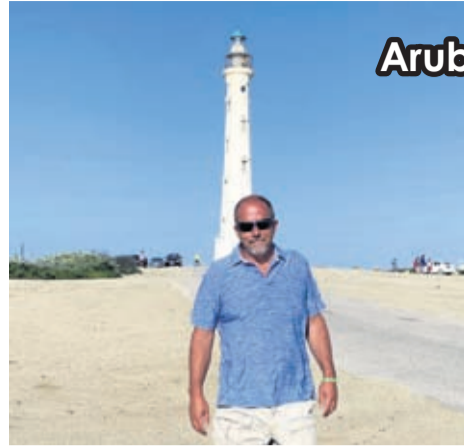




Page 11



Aruba to Me



Page 9

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Page 8

Aruba's English news leader and ultimate guide to paradise

Senate labors to wrap up Biden-McCarthy debt ceiling deal

By LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING, STEPHEN GROVES and FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Straining to prevent U.S. default, the Senate labored into Thursday evening trying to wrap up work on a debt ceiling and budget cuts package that overwhelmingly cleared the House. The urgent aim was to send it to President Joe Biden's desk to become law before the fast-approaching deadline.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the chamber was digging into the bill that Biden negotiated with Speaker Kevin McCarthy and would "keep working until the job is done." He warned of a crush of ideas from senators anxious to revise the bill's budget cuts and environmental policy changes, but said, "There is no good reason, none, to bring this process down to the wire."

Continued on Page 2



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., joined from left by Rep. Ted Lieu D-Calif., the Democratic Caucus vice chair, Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., the Democratic Caucus chair, and Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., the Democratic whip, talks to reporters about the closed-door meeting they had with fellow Democrats on the debt limit deal, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Associated Press

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Senate labors to wrap up Biden-McCarthy debt ceiling deal

Continued from Front

Passage in the Senate will require cooperation between Democrats and Republicans, much the way the narrowly divided House was able to approve the compromise late Wednesday night. Fast action is vital if Washington is to meet next Monday's deadline when Treasury has said the U.S. will start running short of cash to pay its bills, risking a devastating default.

Having remained largely on the sidelines during much of the Biden-McCarthy negotiations, several senators are insisting on debate over their ideas to reshape the package. But making any changes at this stage seemed unlikely, and even opponents of the final deal say they will not hold it up. They hoped to launch into votes Thursday night, but none were scheduled.

Like Schumer, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell signaled he wanted to waste no time. Touting the House package with its budget cuts, McConnell said Thursday, "The Senate has a chance to make that important progress a reality."

The hard-fought compromise pleased few in its entirety, but lawmakers assessed it was better than the alternative — economic upheaval at home and abroad if Congress failed to



House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of Calif. along with other Republican members of the House, speaks at a news conference after the House passed the debt ceiling bill at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Associated Press

act. Tensions had run high in the House as hard-right Republicans refused the deal, but Biden and McCarthy assembled a bipartisan coalition, with Democrats ensuring passage on a robust 314-117 vote.

"We did pretty dang good," McCarthy, R-Calif., said afterward.

As for discontent from Republicans who said the spending restrictions did not go far enough, McCarthy said it was only a "first step."

Biden, watching the tally from Colorado Springs where he delivered the commencement address Thursday at the U.S. Air Force Academy, phoned McCarthy and the other congressional leaders after the vote. In a statement, he called the outcome "good

news for the American people and the American economy."

The White House immediately turned its attention to the Senate, its top staff phoning individual senators.

One emerging hang-up came from Republican senators complaining that military spending, though boosted in the deal, was not increased enough — particularly as they eye supplemental spending that will be needed this summer to support Ukraine in the war against Russia.

"We need safety and security," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "To my House colleagues, I can't believe you did this."

Overall, the 99-page bill restricts spending for the next two years, suspends the

debt ceiling into January 2025 and changes some policies, including imposing new work requirements for older Americans receiving food aid and greenlighting an Appalachian natural gas line that many Democrats oppose.

It bolsters funds for defense and veterans, cuts back new money for Internal Revenue Service agents and rejects Biden's call to roll back Trump-era tax breaks on corporations and the wealthy to help cover the nation's deficits. Raising the nation's debt limit, now \$31.4 trillion, would ensure Treasury could borrow to pay already incurred U.S. debts.

Conservative Republican senators proposed amendments including to further cut spending, while a Democrat sought to remove the gas pipeline approval among others — none expected to be approved.

For weeks negotiators labored late into the night to strike the deal with the White House, and for days McCarthy had worked to build support among skeptics.

The speaker faced a tough crowd, as conservatives from the hard-right House Freedom Caucus, cheered on by outside groups, lambasted the compromise as falling well short of the needed spending cuts. Ominously, the conserva-

tives warned of possibly trying to oust McCarthy over the issue.

Democrats also had complaints, decrying the new work requirements for older Americans, those 50-54, in the food aid program, the changes to the landmark National Environmental Policy Act and approval of the controversial Mountain Valley Pipeline natural gas project they argue is unhelpful in fighting climate change.

The energy pipeline is important to Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and he defended the development running through his state, saying the country cannot run without the power of gas, coal, wind and all available energy sources.

But, offering an amendment to strip the pipeline from the package, Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia said it would not be fair for Congress to step into a controversial project that he said would also course through his state and scoop up lands in Appalachia that have been in families for generations.

Facing Republican resistance overall to even allowing more borrowing to cover the nation's debts, Democrats powered the House bill to passage late Wednesday. All told, 71 House Republicans broke with McCarthy rejecting the deal. □



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during the graduation ceremony of the U.S. Military Academy class of 2023 at Michie Stadium on Saturday, May 27, 2023, in West Point, N.Y.

Associated Press

By **JOSH BOAK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris

said Thursday that federal agencies are taking new steps to stop racial discrimination in appraising home

New federal proposal aims to stop racial bias in formulas used to value homes

values by proposing a rule intended to ensure that the automated formulas used to price housing are fair.

"Everyone should be able to take full advantage of their aspiration and dream of owning a home," Harris told reporters on a telephone call.

Announcement of the proposed rule comes a year after the administration laid out a plan to stop appraisers from systemically undervaluing the homes of Black people and other under-represented groups.

Low appraisals make it

harder for these homeowners to build wealth and access home equity lines of credit, worsening racial inequality.

Appraisers help to determine the value of a home so buyers can receive a mortgage.

The extent of the discrimination by appraisers can be massive, in some instances more than halving the value of a property. In Indianapolis, one Black homeowner found the appraised value of her home jumped to \$259,000 from \$125,000, after she de-

clined to disclose her race on her application and removed all family photos and African American art in the home.

Because many financial institutions and mortgage companies use formulas to judge the value of a home, the proposed rule would set out new standards to prevent discrimination. Companies that rely on appraisals would need to adopt policies to improve the accuracy of their appraisals, stop data manipulation and avoid conflicts of interest. □

White House says Biden is 'fine' after he tripped and fell on stage at Air Force graduation

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

(AP) — President Joe Biden fell on stage at the U.S. Air Force Academy graduation Thursday and the White House said he was "fine" after tripping over a sandbag.

Biden had been greeting the graduates in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the front of the stage with salutes and handshakes, and turned to jog back toward his seat when he fell. He was helped up by an Air Force officer as well as two members of his U.S. Secret Service detail.

Onlookers, including some members of the official delegation on stage, watched in concern before Biden, who at age 80 is the oldest president in U.S. history, returned to his seat to view the end of the ceremony.

"He's fine," tweeted White House communications director Ben LaBolt. "There was a sandbag on stage



President Joe Biden falls on stage during the 2023 United States Air Force Academy Graduation Ceremony at Falcon Stadium, Thursday, June 1, 2023, at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

while he was shaking hands." Two small black sandbags were on stage supporting the teleprompter used by Biden and other speakers.

Biden has been dogged

by questions about his age and his fitness to serve, and his missteps have become fodder for political rivals as he campaigns for a second term in 2024. He has stumbled before go-

ing up the stairs and onto Air Force One and he once got caught up in his bike pedals while stopping to talk to reporters near his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Associated Press

Biden's personal doctor said after the president's most recent physical exam in February that Biden "remains a healthy, vigorous 80-year-old male, who is fit to successfully execute the duties of the Presidency." Dr. Kevin O'Connor also documented the president's stiffened gait, which O'Connor said was the result of spinal arthritis, a previously broken foot and neuropathy in the Biden's feet.

Biden is far from the first national political figure to stumble in public.

President Gerald Ford fell down while walking off Air Force One in 1975. GOP Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, the GOP presidential nominee at the time, fell off the stage at a campaign rally in 1996. President Barack Obama tripped walking up the stairs to a stage at a 2012 event. "I was so fired up, I missed a stair" he told the crowd. □

Louisiana, 9 other states sue U.S. government over steep flood insurance rate increases

By KEVIN MCGILL

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) —

Louisiana and nine other states filed a lawsuit against the federal government Thursday to block sharp increases in national flood insurance rates that are slated to be phased in over the coming years, saying the steeper price could cost some people their homes. Dozens of local Louisiana governments and flood control districts also are plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. district court in New Orleans. The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are among the defendants.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry joined several local officials and business leaders at a news confer-

ence announcing the suit Thursday morning.

FEMA has said its new premium system is an improvement over past methods, incorporating data that wasn't used in the past, including scientific models and costs involved in rebuilding a home. The agency has said the old method could result in people with lower-valued homes paying more than a fair share while those with higher-value homes pay relatively less.

However, Louisiana officials have been complaining for months about the coming rate hikes, saying they could impose impossible financial burdens on some in the state.

Increases are capped at 18% annually. But when they are fully implemented, some residents will be pay-

ing significantly more.

An April analysis of Louisiana rates by The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate put the average increase in the state at 134%. But officials have been pointing to various individuals facing eventual tenfold increases in their annual premiums, including some whose homes have never flooded.

In a lawsuit filed in April seeking access to information and data used to calculate rates, St. Charles Parish officials said the average cost of flood insurance policies there will increase from \$815 to \$2,766 annually.

At Thursday's news conference, state and local officials renewed complaints that federal officials have refused to divulge methodology and data used in



Flood waters surround storm damaged homes on Aug. 31, 2021, in Lafourche Parish, La., as residents try to recover from the effects of Hurricane Ida.

Associated Press

computing the new rates. And, they said, the new premium rates fail to take into account individual homeowners' flood mitigation efforts, such as house raising, or local governments' construction of levees and

other flood protection measures.

The high rates could drive some people from their homes, bring on foreclosures and contribute to Louisiana's loss of population, Landry said. □

Revised DACA program again debated before Texas judge

By **JUAN A. LOZANO**

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge did not make an immediate decision Thursday on the fate of a revised version of a federal policy that prevents the deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

During a court hearing, attorneys representing the nine states that have sued to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program argued the updated policy is essentially the same as the 2012 memo that first created it and asked U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen to again find the program illegal. In 2021, Hanen declared DACA illegal, ruling that the program had not been subjected to public notice and comment periods required under the federal Administrative Procedures Act. Hanen also said the states seeking to stop it had standing to file their lawsuit because they had been harmed by the program.

"Every aspect of this program is ... unlawful," said Ryan Walters, with the Texas Attorney General's Office, which is representing the states that filed the lawsuit. The states have also argued that the White House overstepped its authority by granting immigration benefits that are for Congress to decide. The states have claimed



Susana Lujano, left, a dreamer from Mexico who lives in Houston, joins other activists to rally in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, also known as DACA, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, June 15, 2022.

they incur hundreds of millions of dollars in health care, education and other costs when immigrants are allowed to remain in the country illegally. The states that sued are Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia, Kansas and Mississippi.

Lawyers for the U.S. Justice Department, DACA recipients and the state of New Jersey argued during the hearing the states have failed to present any evidence that any of the costs they allege they have incurred because of illegal immigration have been tied to DACA recipients. They also argued Congress

has given the Department of Homeland Security the legal authority to set immigration enforcement policies.

But the lawyers arguing for DACA, acknowledging that Hanen could again rule against them, also asked Hanen to not completely end the program if that's what he would ultimately decide to do. They instead asked Hanen to only end those parts of the program he would deem as illegal. Lawyers for the states asked that the entire program be shut down within a four-year period after a final ruling.

Texas and the other states filed their lawsuit because

they disagree with immigration policy and not because of concerns over the implementation of laws, said Nina Perales, with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, who spoke before Hanen on behalf of DACA recipients.

Hanen did not immediately rule after Thursday's court hearing or give a time-frame for when he would issue a ruling.

"We will rule on this as expeditiously as we can," said Hanen, who was appointed by then-President George W. Bush in 2002.

Ahead of the hearing on Thursday morning, more than 50 people gathered

at a park near the courthouse to show their support for DACA.

Many of them held up signs that read: "Immigration Reform Now," "Protect DACA" and "Immigrant Power Immigrant Rights."

In 2022, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld Hanen's earlier ruling declaring DACA illegal, but sent the case back to him to review changes made to the program by the Biden administration.

The new version of DACA took effect in October and was subject to public comments as part of a formal rule-making process.

Hanen has left the Obama-era program intact for those already benefiting from it. But he previously ruled there can be no new applicants while appeals are pending.

There were 580,310 people enrolled in DACA at the end of December, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Whatever decision Hanen makes is expected to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court for a third time.

In 2016, the Supreme Court deadlocked 4-4 over an expanded DACA and a version of the program for parents of DACA recipients. In 2020, the high court ruled 5-4 that the Trump administration improperly ended DACA, allowing it to stay in place. □

Associated Press



Supporters of Airbnb hold a rally outside City Hall in New York, Jan. 20, 2015.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Airbnb sued New York City on Thursday over an ordinance that the company says imposes arbitrary restrictions that would greatly

reduce the local supply of short-term rentals.

The 2022 ordinance, which the city plans to begin enforcing next month, would require owners to register

Airbnb sues NYC over restrictions on short-term rentals

with the mayor's office, disclose who else lives in the property, and promise to comply with zoning, construction and maintenance ordinances.

Airbnb said called the restrictions "extreme and oppressive" and a de facto ban against short-term rentals that left the company no choice but to sue. "Taken together, these features of the registration scheme appear intended to drive the short-term rental trade out of New York City once and for all," Airbnb

said.

The company said the mayor's Office of Special Enforcement "failed to consider reasonable alternatives."

The mayor's office did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

San Francisco-based Airbnb filed the lawsuit in state court in Manhattan. Three Airbnb hosts filed a companion lawsuit against the city.

Airbnb sued New York state in 2016 over a ban on advertising short-term rent-

als. It dropped that lawsuit when the city promised not to enforce it.

In 2020, Airbnb settled a lawsuit against the city over monthly reporting requirements for its listings. Airbnb said the 2022 ordinance violates both settlements.

The New York restrictions are among many efforts by local communities to regulate short-term rentals without banning them.

New Orleans is among cities taking on the rental giant, after a court struck down a previous law. □

Thousands march in Jerusalem Pride parade, first under Israel's most right-wing government ever

By ISAAC SCHARF and
TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of people on Thursday marched in Jerusalem's Pride parade — an annual event that took place for the first time under Israel's new far-right government, which is stacked with openly homophobic members.

The march in the conservative city is always tense and tightly secured by police, and has been wracked by violence in the past. But this year, Israel finds itself deeply riven over a contentious government plan to overhaul the judiciary. The plan has torn open longstanding societal divisions between those who want to preserve Israel's liberal values and those who seek to shift it toward more religious conservatism.

Jerusalem's march is typically more subdued than the one in gay-friendly Tel Aviv, where tens of thousands of revelers pour into the streets for a massive, multicolored party. But Thursday's parade, amid tight security, drew bigger crowds than usual in a show of force against the



Israeli border police officers stand guard as participants march in the annual Pride parade in Jerusalem, Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Associated Press

government and its plan to reshape the legal system.

"There isn't one struggle in Israel for democracy, and another one for LGBTQ+ rights," opposition leader Yair Lapid said in a speech to the crowd. "It's the same struggle, against the same enemies, in the name of the same values."

Other opposition politicians and the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Tom Nides, joined Thursday's march. "I don't

find this controversial one way or the other," Nides said. "This is about the rights and human rights, and this is what brings America and Israel together."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government is made up of ultranationalist and ultra-religious parties who openly oppose homosexuality, although the Israeli leader has promised to protect LGBTQ+ rights and a member of his party

who is gay is the Knesset speaker.

The country's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has in the past declared he was a "proud homophobe." Before entering politics, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who now oversees the police, was a fixture at Pride parades, joining a group of protesters who oppose the march. Avi Maoz, a deputy minister with authorities over some

educational content, has said he wanted the legality of the Jerusalem Pride parade examined.

Ben-Gvir said Wednesday there would be a "massive" police presence guarding the marchers and that he supported the freedom of expression manifested by the parade. Israeli police said more than 2,000 officers were deployed along the parade route.

"It will be the police's duty to protect, guard and ensure that even if the minister disagrees with the parade, the safety of the marchers is above all else," Ben-Gvir said. At one point during the parade, Ben-Gvir was jeered with chants of "shame" as he walked on the sidelines for what he said was a visit to monitor security. Hagar Bonne, of Jerusalem, called the march a "happy occasion" but also said it was the "antithesis" to the national climate. "There are people who are very much homophobic and very much transphobic who are in the government today and hold positions of power and budget and are working against us actually right now," she said. □

U.S. to open northernmost diplomatic post in Norway

By MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

OSLO, Norway (AP) — The United States will soon open a small diplomatic mission in Norway that will be its northernmost in the world and only such facility above the Arctic Circle, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced Thursday.

The move, which Blinken announced at a news conference in Oslo after attending a NATO foreign ministers meeting, comes as competition over the high north's resources with Russia intensifies.

Blinken said the U.S. would

open what is known as an "American Presence Post" in Tromsø, which sits 350 kilometers (217 miles) north of the Arctic Circle. The post will open later this year and be staffed by a single U.S. diplomat with the title of "consul."

"We're here to work with like-minded allies to advance our vision of a peaceful, stable and cooperative Arctic," Blinken said before meeting Norway's foreign minister whose country is preparing to assume the chairmanship of the Arctic Council, which is headquartered in Tromsø. Norway will take over the

eight-nation grouping of countries that border the Arctic after two years of Russian leadership during which the bloc was largely ignored by other members due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The State Department had maintained an office in Tromsø until 1994 but it was shuttered in a re-alignment of diplomatic facilities after the end of the Cold War.

"The United States is a proud Arctic state and takes seriously our role as one of the region's stewards," U.S. Ambassador to Norway Marc Nathanson said in a statement.



U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, left, during the meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Schou, right, during NATO's informal meeting of foreign ministers in Oslo, Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Associated Press

Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Schou said Norway and the U.S. share a "long and proud history" of collaboration on Arctic issues.

"I welcome U.S. plans to establish a Presence Post in Tromsø this year, which I am sure will further strengthen our close cooperation," she said. □

New footprints revive hope in Colombia of finding four children

By **EDUARDO HERNÁNDEZ**
Associated Press
BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— The discovery in recent days of small footprints in a southern jungle-covered part of Colombia has rekindled hope of finding alive four children who survived a small plane crash and went missing a month ago. Searchers found footprints Tuesday about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) northwest of where the plane crashed May 1 with three adults and four indigenous children aged 13, 9 and 4 and 11 months, Gen. Pedro Sánchez, commander of the Joint Command of Special Operations said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The searchers believe they were of the oldest child, a girl, and the new clue may indicate that the group has changed course.

More than 100 members of Colombia's special forces and more than 70 indigenous people from the area have joined the search through virgin jungle in the Colombia Amazon. Some soldiers have walked nearly 1000 miles (nearly 1,500 kilometers), or almost the distance from Lisbon to Paris, Sánchez said.

"We have a 100% expectation of finding them alive," Sánchez said, but said the search is extremely difficult



General Pedro Sanchez, the commander of the joint command of special operations of the military forces, welcomes indigenous people the airport in San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia, Sunday, May 21, 2023, after they arrived to help in the search of four indigenous children who are missing after a deadly plane crash.

work. "It's not like finding a needle in a haystack, it's like finding a tiny flea in a huge rug that moves in unpredictable directions."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro has said finding the children is a priority, and Sánchez said no deadline has been set for wrapping up the search.

"We found elements that are very complex to find in the jungle. For example, the lid of a baby bottle. If we've found that, why don't we find the rest? Be-

cause the children are on the move," Sánchez said.

About two weeks after the crash, the remains of the aircraft were found along with the bodies of the pilot and two other adults traveling aboard.

The children weren't found, but there were clear indications they had survived the crash.

Searchers believe the children likely are still alive because otherwise animals would have been drawn to their remains, Sánchez said.

Special forces soldiers are working in rotations and must deal with up to 16 hours a day of rain that can wipe out any tracks of the children. They also must brave wild animals such as jaguars, ocelots, poisonous snakes and mosquitos that carry diseases, Sánchez said.

The soldiers also risk getting lost in the dense jungle, where visibility can be less than 20 meters (yards). "If they move more than 20 meters away, they can get

lost," Sánchez said.

The soldiers believe that the footprints found Tuesday are that of the 13-year-old girl based on their size.

The jungle areas that have been searched have been marked off with tape and whistles have been left in case the children come across those areas and can use them to call help.

The search teams also have been blasting the area with recordings of the voice of the children's grandmother, though heavy rains have been drowning out the sound, Sánchez said.

Among the clues that commandos have found over the past few weeks are a bottle, some towels, used diapers, some scissors and footprints in places relatively close to the place where the accident occurred. It has not been possible to establish whether the children abandoned those belongings intentionally to leave clues to those who are looking for them.

The accident occurred on the morning of May 1 after the pilot declared an emergency due to engine failure.

The flight was going north from the town of Aracua in the south, and crashed about 110 miles (175 kilometers) from San Jose Del Guaviare. □

Associated Press

Cyprus ex-bishop gets suspended sentence

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A court in Cyprus on Thursday gave a former bishop in the Greek Orthodox Church to a 12-month suspended sentence after he was found guilty of indecently assaulting a 16-year-old girl 42 years ago.

In passing sentence, Laraca District Court Judge Evie Efthymiou noted the severity of the offense but said she took into account former Kition Bishop Chrysostomos' advanced age, deteriorating health and clean criminal record, as

well as the significant span of time that had elapsed from when the assault took place.

According to the Cyprus News Agency, the judge also weighed Chrysostomos' charity work as an elected bishop for 46 years before his resignation in 2019.

But she said the fact that the 85-year-old bishop exploited his position of authority as a senior clergyman "not only runs counter to Christian values, it also lends great weight to his

actions."

The judge added Chrysostomos appeared to "cleverly" set his plan in motion by choosing the time and place of their meetings so the victim would be alone with him. The teenager had then reached out to the bishop for financial support after losing her father.

Chrysostomos' conviction was a rare instance in which a senior member of Cyprus' influential Orthodox Church — even if no longer in office — has faced the full weight of the law.



Bishop of Kition in Cyprus, Chrysostomos, left, flanked by an unidentified military priest, talks to reporters outside a military hospital in Athens on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004.

Associated Press

Outside the courthouse, activists heaped scorn on the bishop with the police

having to push back some who tried to obstruct his car as he departed. □

Preparation for hurricane season

What to do before, during, and after a hurricane

Every year in Aruba and the other Caribbean Islands, the hurricane season begins in June and ends in November. These months are considered hurricane season due to the large number of storms that form in the Atlantic Ocean and are directed towards the Caribbean region. To survive a hurricane, it is crucial for every individual and their family to be well-prepared before the arrival of a hurricane and know what to do during and after the storm.

Despite living in modern times where technology allows us to accurately predict the day and time a hurricane will hit an island, it is not advisable to wait until the last moment to start preparing. If you do so, there is a high possibility that you won't be able to adequately prepare due to the extensive preparations required. In a hurricane situation, many people may panic and make poor decisions. That's why it is important to prepare in advance.

Starting from June 1, begin with:

- Clearing around your house or Airbnb, getting rid of unnecessary materials that can become projectiles and pose a danger to your family or neighbors. Keep necessary materials in a safe place where they cannot become projectiles.
- Inspect the roof of your house for loose shingles, zinc, or any other roofing material. Repair them or have your renter repair it if you know that your roof is leaking.
- Program emergency numbers in the phones of each family member, such as 911 for emergencies, 100 for the police, and the contact numbers of close family members such as mother, father, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, in-laws. In the event of a hurricane, emergency numbers will be in high demand, and close family members can help each other more easily.



Stay tuned for the second edition of safety tips, where the Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Disaster Management Bureau will provide information on what to do when the possibility is high that our island will experience a hurricane.

For more information, like our Facebook page "Directie Volksgezondheid DVG Aruba," follow us on Instagram "directie_volksgezondheid_aruba," visit our website www.dvg.aw, call us at 5224200, or email us at servicio@dvg.aw. □

George Forbes: Father of the "Parke Curason"

ORANJESTAD - For many years, sports enthusiasts have had a unique place dedicated to their activities. The biggest park on the island, "Parke Curason*" in Jaburibari is a well-rounded park, featuring a covered basketball court, a soccer field, a BMX racing track, a skateboard park, exercise stations, a children's garden, and a 750-meter asphalt path. But one of the best parts is the dedication of the park's 'tata' (father): George Forbes.

The Face of the Park

There are people who just do their job, and then there are those who make a difference in how they do their job. Mr. Forbes makes a difference when you visit Parke Curason. He greets visitors, walks around to help a child fix their

soccer ball, or assists a jogger on the path. He even takes care of the cars that enter and directs them to a nearby parking spot. For many people, he is the face of the place, and we often forget to thank people like Mr. Forbes, who stand out in this way.

150 visitors per day

Linda Reijnders spoke with Mr. Forbes. "I've been working here since I was 13 years old, and I cherish everything about my work. I'm a supervisor and security guard. People come here every day, and the connection I have with them makes me happy." He explains that the park receives around 150 visitors every day. "That's the average, and it can be even more on weekends."

Every country and every age is represented; indeed, this is a multicultural and multigenerational park. According to Mr. Forbes, the park has been in existence for 14 years, as it was there from the beginning.

"The park looked fantastic back then, everything was new and in good shape. More and more people come nowadays; Arubans love sports more now, and that's



great. Compared to the past, it's better, so we need to focus on maintaining the park," Mr. Forbes explains. He enjoys sports himself and always walks around to assist both young and older people. "I'm not someone who sits in a corner to make money. There are many things to consider to prevent accidents."

BMX Training Spot

Before moving to the Netherlands, Jaymer Carolina was a professional BMX rider, and he confirms the importance of this park for his sport. "The park was my training ground. I trained here six times a week, from 5 to 7 in the evening." He was part of Rough Riders Aruba, where he competed in the 17-24 age category.

The park is not only for BMX groups but also for basketball teams, soccer groups, skateboard enthusiasts, young children, and people who enjoy jogging and walking. Additionally, it serves as a social gathering place.

*"Parke Curason" translates literally to "Heart Park" □



Paseo Herencia is always fun and exciting to visit



NOORD— Paseo Herencia offers a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options in an outdoor center located in the heart of Palm Beach – walking distance from the high-rise hotels.

Shopping

The Paseo Herencia stores offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.

Restaurants

Start with a breakfast meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabarita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open



for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

VIP Cinema

Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and enjoy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

Entertainment

Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.

Parking up to two hours is free when shopping, dining or catching a movie at Paseo Herencia. Just present your purchase receipt at our parking cashier.

To learn more about our specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website www.paseoherencia.com.



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished	Visitor
(10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	
Goodwill	Ambassador
(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	
Emerald	Ambassador
(35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)	

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Anthony Averso & Mrs. Catherine Catalano from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba



Tourism Authority, and staff members of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino bestowed the Ambassador certificate to the honorees, presented them

with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and their home-away-from-home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

The wonderful treatment from the staff members at the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino
Sunny weather – Especially during April & May
Aruba's warm & friendly people
Aruba's variety of restaurants to choose from!
"So many activities to do around the island"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

Let us value, cherish and protect Papiamentu

ORANJESTAD - On May 21, 2023, it was exactly 20 years ago that the Parliament of Aruba approved Papiamentu as an official language alongside Dutch.

Since this date, one can draft official correspondence in Papiamentu or Dutch.

Papiamentu is a national identity symbol that is part of our cultural heritage and is the most used tool in our communication. Papiamentu is the native language spoken by the majority of the community.

It is the backbone of our history and development. It is the heart of our culture. Papiamentu unites us as a community and inspires love and respect for the

culture of our island.

According to the pilot Census in 2019, Papiamentu is the language most spoken at home. Of the four most spoken languages, 80% speak Papiamentu at home.

Most immigrants in Aruba, 58%, speak Papiamentu at home. This data indicates that Papiamentu is the most preferred language spoken in Aruba.

The Minister of Culture Xiomara Maduro calls on everyone to think about the value of our Papiamentu. Speaking and writing Papiamentu is a responsibility of all of us. Let's value, cherish and protect our Papiamentu for our generation and future generations. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message



from **Doug and Wendi Foley from Henry, Virginia.**

They wrote to us saying; "Aruba to me is a place where my husband and I can totally relax. The people are so friendly and welcoming, we always feel at home. Aruba is our happy place."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would

walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with

Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

“Take your car off the beaten track to meet our monuments and their stories”

ORANJESTAD — The mix of cultures in Aruba is very visible in its architecture as -like in all cultures-, monuments reflect your history and your people. If you take the chance to leave the beach for a little while and take your car off the beaten track you will be surprised what you see. Anne Witsenburg is director of the Monument Fund Aruba (SMFA) and points out precisely why a monumental trip should not lack in your vacation's itinerary.

The fund owns 15 monuments, out of the 36 protected monuments in the island. “But there are over 300 more monuments on the list to be protected and of course we dream to see that become reality as soon as possible.” The international guidelines that apply for monuments decide whether it will be a protected monument or not. “The building or object needs to be at least 50 years old, a special value in architecture or to history or to the people of Aruba is required and there has to be a certain uniqueness. If it was changed too much throughout time or there are already any of the same kind it is a no go.”

Useless islands

There is a difference between the islands when it comes to monuments, as Witsenburg explains. “That goes back to their history. Curacao used to be a very wealthy island where many -mainly Dutch- merchants lived close together and that is the reason you find this typical colonial Dutch style buildings packed in certain areas nowadays. They have more than 20 years of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) heritage. Than scattered around the rest of the island you will see the smaller country houses.” Aruba and Bonaire were called the useless islands in the colonial time, so any Indian willing to live here was given a small piece of land to build his home. “That is the reason you find all these typical small houses scattered around the island. We actually have the same amount of monuments as Curacao though way smaller.”

Magic local touch

Some of the monuments owned by the Monument Fund Aruba are the light house, town hall, water tanks in both Oranjestad

and San Nicolas. “We are wealthy in different styled monuments and my suggestion is to discover this world outside of the tourist zone. The book Monumental Guide comes in handy as there are three maps inside that guide you to the monuments and tell you about them. But there are also possibilities to have your personal people guide. And the best is that I can almost guarantee you the magic of the local touch when you bump into an authentic cunucu house (country house) and talk to the owners. They will proudly share their family history with you.”

Outside inspiration

The Monument Fund acquires or buys monuments and restores them back into their former glory. Than they rent it out. “That sounds easy, but it is incredibly complex as most monuments have multiple owners due to the fact that inheritances are split and all need to decide upon the selling.” They cooperate with the government office of monuments because they set the rules of what you can and cannot do to a protected monument. “We also have the



task to maintain the buildings which is an ongoing process. The wind, the salt in the air and the sun that not only burns human bodies but also buildings are huge challenges. Next to that we do education, create awareness and maintain public relations about our monuments.”

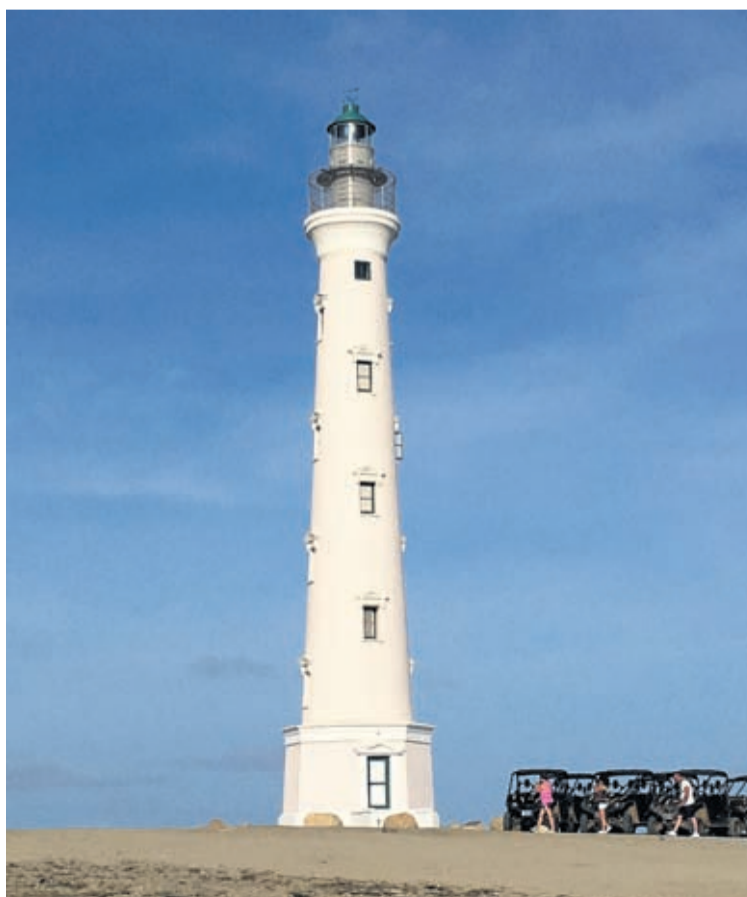
The office of the Monument Fund is actually located in a monument itself. The building is beautiful and has a tropical style. “This house goes back to the 1920's when it was built as a vacation house by Aruban entrepreneur Croes. He and his family came here to the outdoors as in those times there was only cunucu (countryside) here. They had big parties and enjoyed leisure time with family and friends.” Richer Arubans at that time looked outwards for architecture inspiration as

that was considered chic, Witsenburg explains. Either to the US (art deco style like the water tower in San Nicolas), Holland (Dutch colonial style) or Colombia/Venezuela. “This house is inspired by a villa around Cartagena, Colombia. The ideas mostly came from the wives”, she says laughing.

Sustainable driven

Sustainability is a big thing to the Monument Fund Aruba. Witsenburg: “Obviously to restore old buildings and not destroy them to build new ones is already sustainable in itself. Than we have the technical sustainability as in using the right materials and techniques but also the social sustainability. That includes looking at the non-tangible part of heritage: the stories to be told, the music to be played, the dinners that were cooked in the places we try to restore. That keeps it alive. Most of our monuments are meant to be lived in so we would like to reintroduce the joy of living in a monument. We work together with private companies to look into that.” In their office they installed solar panels, use LED lightning and recently implemented an electrical charging point for electric vehicles.

The Monument Fund Aruba is open every day from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. You are more than welcome to ask for information, guiding and help. For more information check out their Facebook page stichting monumenten fonds aruba and the website <http://www.monumentenfondsaruba.com>. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Ordeal
 - 1 Egypt's Anwar
 - 6 Showed over
 - 11 Like Poe tales
 - 12 Make blank
 - 13 Fragrance
 - 14 Rubbish
 - 15 Tiny taste
 - 16 Intersected
 - 18 Upper limit
 - 19 Bowler, e.g.
 - 20 Far from cordial
 - 21 Yale students
 - 23 Palette stuff
 - 25 Sister, of sorts
 - 27 Record book
 - 28 Patron saint of young girls
 - 30 Pest
 - 33 Bikini top
 - 34 Saloon vessel
 - 36 Popped down
 - 37 Pull off
 - 39 Give it a go
 - 40 Subway support

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Yesterday's answer

DOWN

- 1 Medium meeting
- 2 Reception aid
- 3 Subtly suggesting
- 4 Objective
- 5 Instruct
- 6 Check the addition
- 7 Strays
- 8 Complaining noisily
- 9 Facet
- 10 High-maintenance
- 17 Drake's music
- 22 Nearest star
- 24 Physics particle
- 26 Formidable rivals
- 28 Jockey Eddie
- 29 Minivan alternative
- 31 Repair site
- 32 Did salon work
- 33 Disrobed
- 35 Noted oil tycoon
- 38 "Would — to you?"
- 42 Carnival city

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40						41	42		
43						44			
45						46			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

O F O L P R K T G R K N R K T
I T L P K E P D S K U L S K N L H Q
Z T L C Q N O K Z Q N H D P R L C P
M Q L H D Q J H R F I K L I U K G K Q G K N
P R Z P D R Z N S Z U C K . — O Z F Z
Z Q J K U L C

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NEVER EXPLAIN — YOUR FRIENDS DO NOT NEED IT AND YOUR ENEMIES WON'T BELIEVE YOU ANYWAY. — ELBERT HUBBARD

Here's how to prepare to start paying back your student loans

By CORA LEWIS and ADRIANA MORGA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A three-year pause on student loan payments will end this summer regardless of how the Supreme Court rules on the White House plan to forgive billions of dollars in student loan debt.

If Congress approves a debt ceiling deal negotiated by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and President Joe Biden, payments will resume in late August, ending any lingering hope of a further extension of the pause that started during the COVID pandemic. Even if the deal falls through, payments will resume 60 days after the Supreme Court decision. That ruling is expected sometime before the end of June.

No matter what the justices decide, more than 40 million borrowers will have to start paying back their loans by the end of the summer at the latest.

Here's what to know to get ready to start paying back loans:

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR STUDENT LOANS PAYMENTS TO RESTART?

Betsy Mayotte, President of the Institute of Student Loan Advisors, encourages people not to make any payments until the pause has ended. Instead, she says, put what you would have paid into a savings account.

"Then you've maintained the habit of making the payment, but (you're) earning a little bit of interest as well," she said. "There's no reason to send that money to the student loans until the last minute



Harvard University students celebrate their graduate degrees in public health during Harvard commencement ceremonies, Thursday, May 25, 2023, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

of the 0% interest rate."

Mayotte recommends borrowers use the loan-simulator tool at StudentAid.gov or the one on TISLA's website to find a payment plan that best fits their needs. The calculators tell you what your monthly payment would be under each available plan, as well as your long-term costs.

"I really want to emphasize the long-term," Mayotte said.

Sometimes, when borrowers are in a financial bind, they'll choose the option with the lowest monthly payment, which can cost more over the life of the loan, Mayotte said. Rather than "setting it and forgetting it," she encourages borrowers to reevaluate when their financial situation improves.

WHAT'S AN INCOME-DRIVEN REPAYMENT PLAN?

An income-driven repayment plan sets your monthly student loan payment at an amount that is intended to be affordable based on your income and family size. It takes into account

different expenses in your budget, and most federal student loans are eligible for at least one of these types of plans.

Generally, your payment amount under an income-driven repayment plan is a percentage of your discretionary income. If your income is low enough, your payment could be as low as \$0 per month.

If you'd like to repay your federal student loans under an income-driven plan, the first step is to fill out an application through the Federal Student Aid website.

TALK TO AN ADVISER

Fran Gonzales, 27, who is based in Texas, works as a supervisor for a financial institution. She holds \$32,000 in public student loans and \$40,000 in private student loans. During the payment pause on her public loans, Gonzales said she was able to pay off her credit card debt, buy a new car, and pay down two years' worth of private loans while saving money. Her private student loan payment has been \$500 a month, and her public student loan payment will be \$350 per month when it restarts. Gonzales recommends that anyone with student loans speak with a mentor or financial advisor to educate themselves about their options, as well as making sure they're in an income-driven repayment plan. □

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U.S. births in 2022 didn't return to pre-pandemic levels

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. births were flat last year, as the nation saw fewer babies born than it did before the pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

Births to moms 35 and older continued to rise, with the highest rates in that age group since the 1960s. But those gains were offset by record-low birth rates to moms in their teens and early 20s, the CDC found. Its report is based on a review of more than 99% of birth certificates issued last year. A little under 3.7 million babies were born in the U.S. last year, about 3,000 fewer than the year before. Because the numbers are provisional and the change was small, officials consider births to have been "kind of level from the previous year," said the CDC's Brady Hamilton, the lead author of the report. U.S. births were declining for more than a decade before COVID-19 hit, then dropped a whopping 4% from 2019 to 2020. They ticked up about 1% in 2021, an increase experts attributed to pregnancies that couples had put off amid the early days of the pandemic. More findings from the report:

The highest birth rates continue to be seen in women in their early 30s. The number of births for women that age was basically unchanged from the year before. Births were down slightly for women in their late 20s, who have the second-highest birth rate.

Births to Hispanic moms rose 6% last year and surpassed 25% of the U.S. total. Births to white moms fell 3%, but still accounted for



A doctor uses a hand-held Doppler probe on a pregnant woman to measure the heartbeat of the fetus on Dec. 17, 2021, in Jackson, Miss.

50% of births. Births to Black moms fell 1%, and were 14% of the total.

The cesarean section birth rate rose slightly, to 32.2% of births. That's the highest it's been since 2014. Some experts worry that C-sections are done more often than medically necessary.

The U.S. was once among only a few developed countries with a fertility rate that ensured each generation had enough children to replace itself about 2.1 kids per woman. But it's been sliding, and in 2020 dropped to about 1.6, the lowest rate on record. It rose slightly in 2021, to nearly 1.7, and stayed

there last year.

More complete and detailed 2022 numbers are expected later this year. That data should offer a better understanding of what happened in individual states and among different racial and ethnic groups, Hamilton said.

It also may show whether births were affected by the U.S. Supreme Court decision last June overturning Roe v. Wade, which allowed states to ban or restrict abortion. Experts estimate that nearly half of pregnancies are unintended, so limits to abortion access could affect the number of births.

Associated Press

If such restrictions are having an affect on births, it didn't show up in the national data released Thursday. □



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Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
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Sta. Cruz: Tel. 585 8028
San Nicolas : Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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'Ted Lasso' finale proved its whole point that those who are stuck can overcome (SPOILERS)

By TED ANTHONY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Roy Kent cries. Nate Shelley apologizes. Rebecca Welton lets her anger go. Trent Crimm finishes his book. Keeley Jones embraces her strength. And the kind-to-a-fault but often lost Ted Lasso finally after three seasons, but arguably after nearly a lifetime figures out exactly where he needs to be.

Criticized by some for losing its way in its third season, "Ted Lasso" ended up exactly on brand by taking a sharply drawn crew of characters who had lost their ways and gotten stuck, and freeing them from shackles that were often of their own making. "Can people change?" Roy Kent (Brett Goldstein) wonders. The answer, after Wednesday, is a resounding "probably."

"Perfect is boring," Coach Beard (Brendan Hunt) says at one point in the season (and likely series) finale. And if there had been a travel guide to the three seasons of the Apple TV+ show, that quote might well have sat opposite the title page.

"Ted Lasso" has been a Whitman's Sampler of pandemic-era stuckness with a message that, whether it was delivered with a subtle glance or a giant narrative mallet, couldn't help but resonate in a post-pandemic landscape: The moments that have trapped you don't have to last forever.

It was difficult to find a show with more of a collection of people who were stuck trapped in the amber of their own circumstances or choices. Keeley (Juno Temple) was stuck. Roy was stuck. Jamie (Phil Dunster) was stuck. Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham) was stuck. Trent, Colin and Sam (James Lance, Billy Harris and Toheeb Jimoh) were stuck. Nate (Nick Mohammed) was stuck. Even Sharon the sports psychologist (Sarah Niles) was, to some extent, stuck.

And of course Ted him-



This image released by Apple TV shows Brendan Hunt, from left, Jason Sudeikis and Brett Goldstein in the season three finale episode of "Ted Lasso."

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self (Jason Sudeikis), a lost boy with a mustache and a plenitude of platitudes who had been stuck in the quicksand of grief for most of his life and, it turned out, needed a mission to get others unstuck to help him find his own way forward.

'STUCK' IS A THEME TV LOVES

The character who's stuck in the mire is nothing new. It has been a useful and oft-used narrative engine from "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) through "Groundhog Day" (1993) and beyond. But something more intense is happening lately. Take a tour across genres in the American streaming landscape over the past, say, four years, and you'll find a surfeit of stuckness in pretty much every direction you look.

The Scarlet Witch in Marvel's "WandaVision"? Stuck. Nadia in "Russian Doll"? Stuck in strikingly different ways in seasons one and two. Alma in "Undone," Carmy in "The Bear" and "Mare of Easttown"? Stuck, stuck and stuck. Even some of streaming's most recent stars "Severance," "Shrinking" and the recently concluded "Star Trek: Picard" focus on central charac-

ters who are stuck by bad choices, trauma or a lost sense of purpose.

Then there are the shows about the very embodiment of stuckness: "Ghosts" and "School Spirits," both of which address the problem from the vantage point of people who have shuffled off the mortal coil but even then can't seem to figure out how to get where they're going.

"Ted Lasso" distilled this theme to the Nth degree without resorting to supernatural activity. This batch of humans was, viewed from a bit of a distance, an entire citadel of stuckness albeit in varied ways.

Keeley was paralyzed by uncertainty, Roy by anger, Jamie by trauma and ego, Trent by expectations. Nate was being derailed by feelings of inadequacy and Colin by a fear of judgment. Sam was stuck by expectations familial and national. Rebecca was drowning in the scars of a partner's psychological abuse. Arguably the only main character not stuck was Leslie Higgins (Jeremy Swift), jazz virtuoso and dedicated family man and the only character to

understand all along that right here, right now was the place he wanted to be. He had a leg up on many of us. The COVID-19 pandemic was, for a time, stuckness incarnate. "Ted Lasso" debuted right in the middle of it, on Aug. 14, 2020. Now, almost three years later, aren't we navigating through an entire generation coming of age amid an isolating pandemic and deep political fissures? Aren't there millions of folks across the republic locked in tiny, individual struggles to avoid getting stuck or possibly even more daunting trying to avoid staying that way?

AMERICANS LEARN FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POND

The other elephant in the "Ted Lasso" room one directly related to stuckness is also something that invoked the British-American divide so often played for laughs on the show.

A few weeks back, the "Lasso" cast visited the White House to talk about mental health. At the time, Sudeikis said this: "We shouldn't be afraid to ask for help ourselves."

That suggests no, proposes

overtly that going it alone, "American-style," isn't always plausible and that, as the poet John Donne put it so many centuries ago, "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." The bringing together of so many different people from so many places an international soccer team provided the ideal canvas for the show's thesis. Turns out that varied points of view can produce better results. Go figure.

Those who say "Ted Lasso" was treacly and wandered a bit during the third season make legitimate points. Plot lines were dropped or overly compressed. Nuanced antiheroes were not this show's jam, and never did dark doings define the day. The only true villain Rupert Mannion (Anthony Head) was a mustache-twirler with a goatee (the mustache was, of course, already taken) and mostly a foil, a scheming island alone in a sea of sentimentality.

That was OK. Because if the show had a message for the stuck among us, it was this: Maybe, just maybe, rank sentimentality can get you unstuck. And more to the point, maybe you get unstuck by bringing a piece of yourself to everyone else. "The best we can do," Higgins says, "is to keep asking for help and accepting it when you can."

In the United States in 2023, that's still a harder message to sell than it should be. But it's more relevant than ever. Feelings get you stuck, but feelings also set you free. Effort can make you vulnerable, but effort matters.

"I just had to try," Rebecca tells Ted at one point in the finale. That's ultimately the answer to getting unstuck. And it points right back to the song we heard every week in the opening credits the key, in the end, to unlocking the whole show. "It might be all that you get. I guess this might well be it. But heaven knows I tried ..."

Mirra Andreeva wins easily at French Open; Coco Gauff next

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Mirra Andreeva is the latest teen sensation in tennis, a 16-year-old Russian who is the youngest player to win a match in the women's main draw at the French Open since 2005. Do the math: That's before she was born.

The 143rd-ranked Andreeva made her way through qualifying rounds last week without dropping a set to earn her debut berth in the women's bracket at a Grand Slam tournament — and she still is making things look easy so far at Roland Garros. A 6-1, 6-2 victory over Diane Perry of France in 77 minutes on Thursday put her in the third round; that followed a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Alison Riske-Amritraj of the U.S. that lasted 56 minutes.

Next up will be a contest against 2022 French Open runner-up Coco Gauff, who beat Julia Grabher 6-2, 6-3. Gauff, a 19-year-old American, is seeded No. 6 and made her initial breakthrough by beating Venus Williams en route to the fourth round at Wimbledon at age 14.

Gauff is one of just 12 seeded women left in the field, the fewest to reach the third round at Roland Garros since the number of



Frances Tiafoe of the U.S. plays a shot against Russia's Aslan Karatsev during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Associated Press

seeds expanded to 32 in 2002.

Andreeva and Gauff have practiced together, but that won't mean much Saturday.

"The practice and the match is different, so I might also play different," Andreeva said. "I don't know. Who knows?"

She's played terrifically clean tennis so far, including making a total of 15 unforced errors to 38 for Parry and winning 14 of 21 points that lasted at least nine

strokes.

"Really solid for her age. She did everything better than me today," said the 79th-ranked Parry, who made it to the third round at two majors last season. "She doesn't miss a lot. Like nothing. You never have an easy point. It's always a long rally."

Before arriving in Paris, Andreeva showed what she can do by eliminating three players ranked in the Top 40 at the clay-court Madrid Open.

She was asked Thursday during a news conference filled with one-liners: What's the secret to success at such a young age?

"Maybe, as my coach says, to not be like a diva. To stay humble all the time," said Andreeva, whose older sister, Erika, lost in the first round at Roland Garros this week.

And then Andreeva demonstrated what she meant by disputing the very premise of the question.

"I don't think that I have a

lot of success now," she said, resting her cheek on her right hand. "I didn't win any tournaments. I just play." Alrighty, then.

Yes, Andreeva has lofty aims. Asked to define what her dreams are in her sport, she mentioned that Novak Djokovic has 22 Grand Slam titles. "So I want to go," Andreeva said, "until 25."

Out of the mouths of babes, eh? Andreeva is supposed to occupy herself with homework for her online courses — "Chemistry is so bad," came the lament — and a reporter wanted to know how she spends her idle moment.

"I don't have any hobbies. I think I'm like a usual teenager. I love to watch some TV series when I have free time," Andreeva said, before offering one of a handful of punch lines over the course of her news conference: "I also have to do my school, but let's be honest, I don't do it sometimes."

Her favorite tennis players amount to a three-way tie among Roger Federer ("He's always been my No. 1"), Rafael Nadal ("I don't know why, but in my head, everything turned" when Nadal won his 14th championship at Roland Garros last year) and Djokovic ("I don't want to offend Novak"). □

NFL expanding The Smart Heart Sports Coalition

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL has expanded The Smart Heart Sports Coalition to 26 member organizations as it continues to advocate for all 50 states to adopt policies that will prevent high school students from fatal outcomes from sudden cardiac arrest.

The coalition was founded earlier this year in response to the life-saving emergency care provided to Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin. It's made up of men's and women's professional sports organizations and leading medical and advocacy groups.

The WNBA is among the latest professional sports organizations to join along with the National Women's Soccer League, Women's Tennis Association and United States Tennis Association.

The NBA, NHL and MLB have been members of the coalition since it launched in March. "The addition of new partners to the coalition means more action, more impact and wider reach," NFL executive Jeff Miller said. "We're looking forward to building upon our initial progress and continuing to advocate for these life-saving measures

at the state-level. Our clubs and league remain committed to these efforts and to student athletes across the country."

The coalition has sent letters to governors across the country, and has engaged with policymakers in several states as part of its effort to have more states adopt life-saving policies. The league also announced Thursday during National CPR and AED Awareness Week that the NFL Foundation is launching its CPR Education Grant later this month, making available \$20,000 in funding to all 32



Buffalo Bills defensive back Damar Hamlin (3) makes a catch during NFL football practice in Orchard Park, N.Y., Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

Associated Press

NFL clubs for CPR and AED education and equipment. The NFL also has partnered with the American Red Cross to offer both Hands-

Only CPR education and certification opportunities across all league offices in June and throughout the summer. □

Gausman strikes out 11, Blue Jays beat Brewers 3-1

By IAN HARRISON

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Kevin Gausman pitched 6 2/3 shutout innings to win back-to-back starts for the first time this season, Bo Bichette and Matt Chapman both homered and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Milwaukee Brewers 3-1 on Thursday. Gausman (4-3) struck out 11, giving him 100 on the season and reclaiming the AL lead from Angels right-hander Shohei Ohtani (90). Gausman allowed five hits and walked two.

"He was awesome," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said. "I mean, he was lights out."

Gausman has struck out 10 or more a major-league leading five times in his 12 starts. "That's a pretty ridiculous pace," Schneider said. "It's a testament to him, how he takes care of himself." Erik Swanson retired all four batters he faced and Jordan Romano finished for his 13th save in 16 chances.

The Brewers have lost five of seven. Bichette and Chapman both connected off Brewers right-hander Freddy Peralta (5-5) in a three-



Toronto Blue Jays' Bo Bichette (11) rounds the bases after hitting a home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers in Toronto, Thursday, June 1, 2023.

Associated Press

run first inning as Toronto opened June on a winning note after going 11-17 in May. Bichette got it started with a solo drive to center, his team-leading 12th. Three batters later, Chapman hit a two-run blast, his eighth. "That put us in a big hole against a really good pitcher," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said.

Blue Jays center fielder Kevin Kiermaier made a sensa-

tional diving catch on the warning track for the final out of the second inning, laying out for Andruw Monasterio's deep drive. Backing up the play, right fielder George Springer raised his arms in celebration at the highlight reel catch by the three-time Gold Glove award winner.

"He just has that mentality to go after it and go get it," an appreciative Gaus-

man said. "I told him after the game 'It looked like you had no chance to get to that from my vantage point.' Then he just kind of came out of nowhere and made the play."

Kiermaier nearly made another great catch in the ninth, but couldn't come up with Rowdy Tellez's inning-opening triple. After William Contreras walked, Tellez scored on Brian

Anderson's double-play grounder. After giving up a leadoff double in the second, Peralta retired the next nine batters in order. He set down 14 of the final 16 batters he faced.

"They took very good ABs against me in the first inning but I was able to manage it a little bit," Peralta said.

Peralta allowed three runs and six hits in six innings, his second straight losing decision. Blue Jays batters didn't strike out, walk, or hit a home run in Wednesday's 4-2 loss, just the third time in team history that's happened, and the first since 1979. In contrast, Toronto did all three in the first inning Thursday.

After Bichette and Chapman homered, Cavan Biggio drew a two-out walk but Kiermaier struck out to end the inning.

SPEED ZONE

Gausman ended the sixth by striking out Anderson with a 99.3 mph fastball. It was the fastest pitch Gausman has thrown this season, and his fastest since a 99.3 fastball on Aug. 9, 2020.

IT'S A BEAST

Milwaukee is 3-6 against AL East opponents. □

Churchill Downs implements safety, performance standards

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Churchill Downs will limit horses to four starts during a rolling eight-week period and impose ineligibility standards for continued poor performance in the wake of the recent deaths

of 12 horses at the home of the Kentucky Derby. Other safety initiatives announced by Churchill Downs on Thursday include pausing incentives, such as trainer start bonuses and purse payouts to every

race finisher, with payouts limited to the top five finishers. Churchill Downs officials say they'll continue talks with horsemen to determine how to allocate funds.

The measures take effect immediately and follow a special meeting between Churchill Downs officials and horsemen based at the track and its trackside training center. Horse racing's federally created oversight authority had convened an emergency summit this week with Churchill Downs and Kentucky's racing commission to examine the troubling spate of deaths. All but two deaths have been attributed to racing or training leg injuries. The other two are from unknown causes, but all are being investigated by the Kentucky Horse

Racing Commission and Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA).

A release from Churchill Downs stated that California-based equine surgeon Ryan Carpenter presented trainers and veterinarians with information and tools about advanced interventions for certain injuries. The Churchill Downs' equine medical director, Will Farmer, said there was "a duty" to offer information from someone who experienced similar challenges recently in California.

He said in the release that decisions regarding the long-term well being of horses must be first and foremost. "It is imperative that all available, educated and informed options can be efficiently, confidently and thoroughly relayed to the owners."

Louisville-born trainer Brad Cox said he did "a lot of listening" at the meeting and left it at that.

"I think Churchill is trying to dot every I and cross every T," Cox said during a NTRA teleconference. "It's been a lot of stuff happening since the meet began and hopefully we're kind of coming to the end of this." The ineligibility measure impacts horses losing by more than 12 lengths in five consecutive starts. They cannot race at Churchill Downs until approved by Farmer to return.

Seven horses died in the days leading up to the 149th Kentucky Derby on May 6, including two on the undercard. Five horses have died since then, including two 7-year-olds last weekend from similar leg injuries. □



Javier Castellano, atop Mage, third from left, is seen behind with others behind the pack as they make the first turn while competing in the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 6, 2023, in Louisville, Ky.

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